

government officials consider it to be doubtful whether the rebels will agree to the long delay inseparable from the calling of a national convention. The action of the throne leaves no room for doubt that the advisers of the present and the Emperor are prepared for abdication, should that course prove to be the only way of settlement.

Dramatic Scene.
The assembly in the palace was productive of at least one dramatic incident. The Dowager Empress, Premier Yuan Shi Kai and the princes of the imperial clan were present, and the debate waxed so warm that finally Yuan Shi Kai arose and offered his resignation. This, however, was refused.

Premier Yuan explained to the princes that he could continue the government and retain the country north of the Yangtze only by having funds placed at his disposal. He asked the princes to empower him to obtain money. He explained that \$10,000,000 would meet the payments for the soldiers for five months, after which the south would become disunited, and province after province would return to their allegiance to the throne.

But the princes were unmoved. They pleaded lack of money, although most of them were very wealthy. None as given any substantial amount to aid the government with the exception of Prince Ching, who has handed over more than \$100,000 for that purpose. The Dowager Empress wept, and Yuan Shi Kai showed signs of distress. Then he declared that he could not desert her and the child Emperor, and agreed to continue.

It is said to-night that Yuan Shi Kai intends to make another attempt to obtain a loan of \$10,000,000 from the "four-nation" group, of which three of the countries signified their willingness to furnish a loan. England declining to participate. The premier said that he would not use the money for a campaign of aggression, but would leave the republicans provinces to consume their own destruction, only defending the north bank of the Yangtze when attacked. He asserts that the rebels have small resources and that their troops already are engaged in plundering.

Yuan Shi Kai's appearance has changed greatly since his arrival in Peking. He has aged materially and shows the effects of the continued stress reports that he does not understand the republican form of government, and would not associate himself with it.

Independence Expected.

Washington, D. C., December 28.—Although not officially informed of the purpose of the local authorities in Mongolia and Turkestan to declare the independence of those provinces of China to-day, the officials of the State Department were not surprised at the reports that the fact that the declaration was directed to the fact that the exception of China, practically all of the Chinese provinces have Mongolia and Turkestan already have declared their independence of the Peking government.

This was done confessedly for the purpose of getting rid of the monarchical machinery which has existed in the provinces for the past 500 years and of clearing the way for the realization of the ideal republic of the Chinese reformers.

As to the possible extension of Russian influences over the provinces of Mongolia and Turkestan, and their probable ultimate absorption by Russia, nothing is known here, but every step taken has warranted the confidence of the State Department in the pledges given by the five powers interested that they would act as a unit in China, and would seek to take no individual advantage of any developments, such as the declaration of independence of a province at this stage.

Pirates More Inquent.

Hongkong, China, December 28.—Traffic along the West River is generally quiet, but occasional piracies occur. The British steamer Sze-yap, from Hongkong to Canton, was attacked and looted by sixty armed pirates, who succeeded in carrying off cash, arms, ammunition and sundries of the total value of about \$20,000. The crew was unarmed and unable to oppose any resistance. None of them was harmed.

Premier Disgusted.

Paris, December 28.—A Peking dispatch to the Paris edition of the New York Herald states that the refusal of the imperial clan to contribute to the war chest, Yuan Shi Kai

To Boys, Girls, Youths, Young Women; interesting dress items.



This is one of our special youths' suits in the fashionable gray, wooly fabric, steel gray.

It is cut in the extreme New York style, giving the figure the slim appearance.

Vest high, of course. Price, \$25.

Others at \$18 in the new blue and brown combinations.

Hats to match the suits in general effect.

If you are fussy about your clothes, come here where we enjoy fussing with you.

THE POLO GOAT SALE

for Girls and Misses is attracting special attention to this exclusive line of Berry-man-tailored garments that has caused such favorable comment this season all over Richmond, and in fact Virginia.

\$15.00 Polo Coats at \$ 9.75

\$16.50 Polo Coats at \$11.50

\$20.00 Polo Coats at \$14.75

Winter is practically all ahead of us.

C. P. Lathrop

to-night took sick leave. It is believed that this presages his early retirement from the premiership. He bitterly resents the bad faith of Wang Fang and his party in proposing a national congress and now insisting upon a rump not a representative congress. Yuan fears that a republic means the country's dissolution, and believes the only sane solution is to fight it out, but he is handicapped by lack of money.

Edict Must Be Liberal.

Shanghai, December 28.—An imperial edict will not be accepted by the revolutionaries except in the most liberal form under which a republic can be established without delay, or unless it provides for the recognition of the provisional government, of which Dr. Sun Yat Sen will be elected president to-morrow at the regular convention of the Nanking conference, at which eighteen delegates appointed by the governors of the provinces or by the provincial assemblies, will act in behalf of China proper.

Reports that American bankers represented at Peking are willing to lend money to the imperialists are regarded here with serious apprehensions, if the Southern revolutionists were once convinced that Americans were supporting the imperialists, either financially or diplomatically, the result, they say, would be disastrous to America.

Harris Water
ANTI-DESPIC
"Begets Health"

Drink it with your meals—then eat what you want.

"Ask anyone who has tried it"

Sold by all druggists—just a few from the spring of J. A. Harris & Co. Distributors 211 Richmond Street, Richmond, Va.

Table Treats

Are found here in great variety. See the new displays of dainties to tempt the palate.

German Noodles
Firm and delicious in 25c flavor, the package

French Macaroni
The finest imported quality, 2 packages for 25c

Hermann Schmidt
WINES AND LIQUORS
501-509 East Broad.

Washed Gravel

It would pay you to see us if you are a contractor.

C. P. Lathrop & Co.

lean trade and influence and endanger all Americans residing in the interior. Dr. Sun Yat Sen has made preparations to organize his cabinet.

Manchu Position Desperate.

London, December 28.—A rumor was current in London to-night that Dr. Sun Yat Sen has been elected president of the Chinese republic by the republicans in Shanghai.

The Daily Telegraph's Peking correspondent notes a remarkable change in the tone of the semi-official press, foreshadowing the establishment of a republic, and adds that Yang-Shao-Vi has resigned and succeeded to the republicans.

Another remarkable development, he says, is that the provincial generalists have commenced ordering back the metropolitanism to their native provinces. This alone, says the correspondent, breaks up the central government and renders the Manchu position absolutely desperate.

PTOMAIN POISONING CAUSED BY TURKEYS

Epidemic at Arlington, N. J., Follows Christmas Dinners.

New York, December 28.—Since Christmas the commuters' trains out of Arlington, N. J., have been running with epidemic poisoning.

There is a popular butcher in Arlington who has hitherto had a reputation for furnishing good provender. The demand on his supply of turkeys began several weeks before Christmas. He scattered them over the length and breadth of the community. He likewise guaranteed that they were fresh, killed and not storage-frozen fowls embalmed for unknown years.

They do not believe this now in Arlington. In many homes at Christmas dinner there was a strange hesitation about lauding the toothsome of the turkey. The birds had variegated hues and quaint un-turkey-like odors. Also there were many sudden attacks of distressing indigestion after dinner.

The ptomaine poisoning epidemic still holds sway in Arlington. It is probable that the consumption of turkeys will materially decrease for some time to come and that a serious investigation will be made by the board of health concerning the exact status of the turkeys which caused the trouble.

BENT ON FINISHED FIGHT

Both Sides Determined in English Cotton War.

Manchester, Eng., December 28.—Both sides in the great cotton war, which was brought about by the refusal of one man and two women to join a trades union, which has caused the lockout of 150,000 weavers, and the placing on half-time of an equal number of spinners, are determined to fight to a finish.

The mills in a score of towns in the north and northeastern districts of Lancashire are at this time closed. In a few instances the fires are kept going, but this is the only sign that some of the owners are still hopeful of an early resumption of work.

The operatives seem quite firm in their resolution to demand recognition of their union. They thronged the streets throughout the day, but all have been quiet and orderly up to now.

The dispute spread to-day to Cheshire. The mills at Marple, owned by Calico Printers' Combine, locked out their workers this morning, and similar action is expected in other Cheshire centres.

The Cotton Waste Spinners' Federation resolved to-day to close the mills belonging to its members January 10 in the dispute between the employers and their workers in Lancashire is not settled in the interim.

The next move appears to be with Sir George Asquith, of the Board of Trade, who has acted successfully in so many other labor disputes.

BAKERIES HOUSECLEANING

Activity of the Board of Health Results in Passing of Unsanitary Shops.

New York, December 28.—New York's bakeries are now undergoing at the hands of the Board of Health such a housecleaning as they have not experienced for years. Within the past two months more than 250 places where bread is sold have been adjudged public nuisances or a menace to health, and in each case the occupant has been ordered to close up shop at once or given five days to put his house in order.

In most cases, filthy, unsanitary bakeries have been converted into shops where the staff of life is made under conditions showing marked improvement.

Since beginning the crusade the board has adopted the use of two remedial orders, known as "public nuisance" and "vacation" orders. One hundred and thirty such orders have been directed to bakers within a single week. The vacation order is issued where a building is deemed unfit for human habitation because of defects in plumbing or drainage or because of nuisance on the premises that is likely to cause sickness among the occupants; the public nuisance order is issued where the board finds that bread is being made under conditions dangerous to life and health, and orders to whom the orders are directed have no choice but to comply. More than 2,000 places have been inspected, and, under the drastic rulings enforced, the board announces that there has been a decided improvement in the condition of the bakeries.

GREAT ARMY GATHERING

Turks and Arabs Preparing for Another Fight.

Tripoli, December 28.—According to information gathered by the army attached to the Italian army, and by scouting parties of cavalry, the Turks and Arabs are concentrating in great force to the south of Aluzara. The Italians send out frequently small parties to make reconnaissance, but they do not proceed far away from the Italian camp, as another onslaught by the Turks is feared. The position of the Turks is the same from which they made their last attack, which resulted in a severe fight, lasting six hours, and the retirement of the Italians.

Thousands of Volunteers.

Marselles, December 28.—A special dispatch from a correspondent with the Ottoman army at Aziza, in the interior of Tripoli, says that thousands of volunteers are being enrolled daily. The army, he says, is in excellent condition and possesses ample arms and ammunition, most of which has been taken from the Italians.

The leading spirit in the Turkish and Arabian camp continues to be Ali Fetih Bey, formerly Turkish military attaché in Paris, who was reported killed by the Italians.

Cold Grips Chicago.

Chicago, December 28.—The cold wave which has settled over Chicago which has low records for this winter when the mercury dropped to below zero. The poor agent is swamped with appeals for fuel and provisions.

Millions of American homes are denied really good ice cream because so much of it is inferior. The industry is being cleaned up. Try the Velvet Kind where Quality-Purity-Sanitation prevails.

FAILING VISION

Very often comes from poor blood—remarkable restorations have been made by—

MILK-M

FOR GOOD BLOOD

Advertising Ideas Free

We are successfully handling many large and small accounts in the South. If you want ideas, suggestions and advice in connection with your advertising tell us by letter, phone or in person.

FREEMAN ADVERTISING AGENCY, INC. Mutual Building, Richmond, Va. Phone Madison 544.

CLARK AND WILSON PEOPLE HOPEFUL

Friends of Speaker Taking Heart as Time for Committee Meeting Approaches.

Washington, D. C., December 28.—As the time draws near for the meeting of the Democratic National Committee in Washington, there is no doubt that friends of Speaker Clark are perking up and looking hopeful over the presidential outlook.

This view of the situation is reflected in various ways. The recent interview of Senator Stone, in which he directed Clark would retire and Clark would be nominated, is one of a lot of talk one can hear among the Clark admirers. The process of reasoning is that Clark is going to be the second choice of a large share of the delegates, and when the delegates find they cannot nominate the candidates of their first choice, they will naturally center on Clark.

Of course, the Clark people are predicting their hopefulness on the belief that the conservative Democrats are going to keep the nomination away from Woodrow Wilson.

The strength of Governor Wilson is admitted, but it is insisted that he cannot get over the top of that famous Democratic mountain, the two-thirds rule. His managers say he can, but every politician knows it is doubtful, and that Wilson's enemies are going to make most vigorous resistance before they will allow him to get away with two-thirds of the delegates.

By the admissions of the Wilson campaign managers they are now about 100 delegates short of the required number. This, of course, is a enormous lead over any other candidate, and places Wilson in a position of advantage.

Harmon's or Underwood's nomination is now generally regarded here as extremely unlikely. Harmon's delegates, when they leave him, will go to Clark rather than Wilson, and the same is true of Underwood's. It is pointed out.

Speaker Clark undoubtedly has weakened himself with the thinking leaders of his party since he became head of the House by too much inconsiderate talk. But he still has many elements of strength, and if the House elects a speaker this session it will be distinctly to his advantage.

The Wilson leaders, when they come here for the national committee meeting, are going to try to convince the rest of the committee that their candidate is sure of nomination.

One of the noticeable features about the Democratic situation since the assembling of Congress in December is the less assuredness among Democratic members about a victory for their party next year. Most of them are convinced there is a hard fight ahead, whether the Republicans nominate President Taft or any one else.

FLYING WILL BE TAUGHT

Courses in Aeronautics in American Universities Predicted.

Washington, D. C., December 28.—Courses in aeronautics soon will be established in American universities to fit young men for the profession of flying and for the work of the military service. The prediction was made to-day by Professor A. Lawrence Roach, of Blue Hill Meteorological Observatory, Boston, in an address before the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Professor Roach said the United States was far behind European countries in establishing laboratories for the study of aeronautics.

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MRS. TOM THUMB AT WHITE HOUSE

Greeted by Taft, and Shows Where Lincoln Stood When She Was Presented.

Washington, December 28.—Mrs. Tom Thumb, one of the smallest women in the world, called upon President Taft to-day, and the President had difficulty in reaching down far enough to shake her hand.

Mrs. Thumb was accompanied by Countess Lavinia, Count Primo Magri, and Baron Magri, all of Italy.

Mrs. Thumb said, after her talk with Mr. Taft, she had just been received at the White House by President Lincoln in 1863. She had come to Washington at that time with General Tom Thumb on her honeymoon, and had been introduced to the great emancipator in the East Room.

This morning Mrs. Thumb went to the Executive Mansion again after calling at the President's office. She was ushered through the apartments on the first floor, and showed her companions where she had stood when President Lincoln greeted her.

The little woman is now seventy years of age. She says she has met every President of the United States since Lincoln.

PERSIA FEARS BRITISH

Attack on Consul May Lead to Punitive Expedition.

Tehran, December 28.—The British consul, W. A. Smart, who was wounded in an engagement between his Indian escort and 300 Kurdish tribesmen, is safe, having been brought from a caravan, where he received medical attention, to Kazeroon. The Persian foreign minister to-day called on the British minister and expressed deep regret on behalf of his recent and government for the incident.

General Smuts, the British minister, had been taken to insure Consul Smart's safe arrival at his post at Kazeroon, and exemplary punishment for the offenders.

The Persian government is extremely apprehensive lest Great Britain consider the incident justification for a punitive expedition, which might be prolonged, possibly to permanent occupation of Southern Persia.

General Smuts, the American who was dismissed from the office of treasurer-general by the cabinet, still is awaiting notification of the appointment of his successor. He suggested the selection of F. E. Cairns, who was his principal American assistant, to act in the interim. This would enable Mr. Smuts to leave Tehran within a short time. If the suggestion is accepted, possibly he will leave his family in about ten days. The only route by which he can return home is by way of Kazhin and Reant, which are now in the possession of the Russian troops, to Baku and through Russia.

The telegraph lines to Tabriz have been restored, and it is presumed that fighting in that district has ceased, but dispatches so far received from Tabriz are several days old, and indicate that the Russians were in a desperate struggle on Sunday, and were awaiting reinforcements.

They effected a truce, which was held until Monday, when heavy reinforcements arrived, and the Russians renewed their attacks.

Persia Hiss Apologized.

London, December 28.—The latest news received here indicates that affairs in Persia are quieter. The Persian government has apologized for the outrage against Consul Smart, whose safety is assured, and taken measures to stave off a British punitive expedition.

In Calcutta the belief is held that an expedition will be sent to occupy Shiraz. It is understood that the present form the British action will take will be decided at Calcutta to-morrow after a consultation with the home government.

The British government during the last year or two has had to complain so frequently to Persia of robberies, seizures and murders on the caravan routes in Southern Persia, which the Persian authorities seem helpless to prevent, that there is little doubt that the British government now will be taken to task for the protection of British citizens in this district. King George is due to arrive at Calcutta to-morrow, and his presence may influence the decision.

INSTANTLY KILLED

Columbia Man Struck by Train While Trying to Save His Dog.

Columbia, S. C., December 28.—Attempting to save his dog from death beneath a locomotive, George F. Blackwell, of this city, was struck and instantly killed to-day by a Southern Railway train just outside the city limits. Mr. Blackwell and a son were overtaken by a train on a small trestle. They stepped out on a platform to avoid the passing of the train, but just as the engine approached one of the dogs stepped on the track. Mr. Blackwell was struck by the plow of the engine.

PLEADS FOR HOSPITAL COT

Mrs. Vermlay Answers Not Guilty to Indictment Charging Murder.

Chicago, December 28.—Too feeble to plead guilty, Mrs. Louise Vermlay, 38, pleaded not guilty to the indictment charging the murder of her son, George, who was shot to death by a Southern Railway train just outside the city limits. Mrs. Vermlay and a son were overtaken by a train on a small trestle. They stepped out on a platform to avoid the passing of the train, but just as the engine approached one of the dogs stepped on the track. Mr. Blackwell was struck by the plow of the engine.

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